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(54) Title: SURFACTANTS FOR USE IN AGRICULTURAL FORMULATIONS

(57) Abstract

An adjuvant containing: (a) a C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>22</sub> fatty acid methyl ester ethoxylate having from 1 to about 200 moles of ethylene oxide; and (b) a component selected from the group consisting of nonionic surfactants, anionic surfactants, cationic surfactants, alkyl esters, phytobland mineral oils, water soluble silicone surfactants, fatty acid dialkyl ethers, fatty acid dialkyl carbonates, vegetable oils, and mixtures thereof.

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## SURFACTANTS FOR USE IN AGRICULTURAL FORMULATIONS

### Field of the Invention:

The present invention generally relates to surfactants for agricultural formulations. More particularly, the invention relates to the use of fatty acid methyl ester ethoxylates as emulsifiers, dispersants, wetting agents and solvents for adjuvant concentrates, pesticide compositions, and aqueous pesticide compositions.

### Background of the Invention

Insecticides, insect repellents, fungicides, bactericides, bacteriostats, herbicides, and plant growth regulators are normally formulated into various products for use on crops, for insect control, weed control and the like. Alternatively, the products may be formulated as liquids or powders or granules. Solvents, emulsifiers, dispersing agents and wetting agents are normally incorporated into such compositions to ensure the

preparation of a uniform pesticide formulation.

These formulation components are also selected to ensure that the pesticide composition will disperse or emulsify evenly in a tank mix at the point of application. 5 They also have a third purpose which is to ensure optimum delivery of the tank mix preparation to the targeted pest or substrate. Sometimes these surfactants incorporated in pesticide formulations are not sufficient to fully ensure stable tank mixes when such tank mixes contain multiple 10 components. Similarly, it may be necessary to add adjuvants to the tank mix for full stability. It is widely known that adding adjuvants which contain surfactants to the tank mix will realize the desired stabilization. Moreover, additional quantities of surfactants have been 15 shown to potentiate pesticidal activity of many pesticides and there are many adjuvant formulations that have been developed for this purpose. Surfactants are nearly always components of these adjuvants ranging from minor components to the sole component.

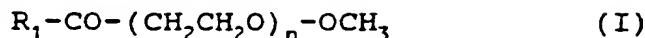
20 Fatty acid methyl ester ethoxylates are a class of nonionic surfactants which enjoy the advantage that they can be prepared from renewable resources, such as natural fats and oils. The fatty acid methyl ester ethoxylates are readily biodegradable and exhibit very low aquatic 25 toxicity. These features commend fatty acid methyl ester ethoxylates to formulators of pesticides and adjuvants seeking to prepare formulations of products with minimum levels of environmental impact and safe handling

properties.

Summary of the Invention:

The present invention is directed to an adjuvant  
5 containing:

(a) an ethoxylated fatty acid methyl ester corresponding to formula I:



wherein R<sub>1</sub> is a saturated or unsaturated alkyl group  
10 containing from about 6 to about 22 carbon atoms and n is an integer from 1 to about 200; and

(b) a component selected from the group consisting of nonionic surfactants, anionic surfactants, cationic surfactants, alkyl esters, phytobland mineral oils, water  
15 soluble silicone surfactants, fatty dialkyl ethers, fatty dialkyl carbonates, vegetable oils, and mixtures thereof.

The present invention is also directed to a pesticide concentrate containing:

- (a) a fatty acid methyl ester ethoxylate; and  
20 (b) a biologically-active ingredient.

The present invention is also directed to an aqueous pesticide composition containing:

- (a) a fatty acid methyl ester ethoxylate;  
25 (b) a biologically-active ingredient; and  
(c) water.

The present invention is also directed to a process for treating a target substrate involving contacting the target substrate with the above-disclosed aqueous pesticide

composition.

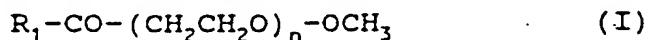
Description of the Invention:

Other than in the claims and in the operating examples, or where otherwise indicated, all numbers expressing quantities of ingredients or reaction conditions used herein are to be understood as being modified in all instances by the term "about".

The term target substrate as used herein means a plant, a plant pest, or a combination of a plant and a plant pest. A plant pest is defined as any living stage of any weed, insects, mites, nematodes, slugs, snails, protozoa, or other invertebrate animals, bacteria, fungi, other parasitic plants or reproductive parts thereof, viruses, or any organisms similar to or allied with any of the foregoing, or any infectious substances which can directly or indirectly injure or cause disease or damage in any plants or parts thereof, or any processed, manufactured, or other products of plants.

The fatty acid methyl ester ethoxylate of the present invention can provide a variety of functions in agricultural applications. These functions include: (1) solubilizing biologically-active ingredients combined therewith; (2) acting as a co-solvent when combined with other organic materials used in the formulation of adjuvant and pesticide concentrates; (3) act as an emulsifier for a biologically active ingredient when diluted with water; and (4) facilitate the enhanced application of an aqueous,

ready-to-use pesticide composition when it is applied onto a target substrate. Suitable fatty acid methyl ester ethoxylates include those of formula I:



wherein R<sub>1</sub> is a saturated or unsaturated alkyl group containing from about 6 to about 22 carbon atoms, and preferably from about 10 to about 18 carbon atoms, and n is an integer from 1 to about 200, preferably from about 3 to about 100, and most preferably from about 5 to about 30.

The reason that the fatty acid methyl ester ethoxylates of formula I are capable of facilitating the above-disclosed functions is that because fatty acid methyl esters are oil soluble, they allow for the formulation of an adjuvant and/or pesticide concentrate containing various organic liquids such as, for example, co-surfactants which include nonionic, anionic, cationic and amphoteric surfactants, as well adjuvants based on both synthetic and vegetable oils. Once the methyl esters are ethoxylated, the ethylene oxide substituents render the methyl ester more water soluble. Hence, when a pesticide concentrate containing both a solvated biologically active ingredient and an ethoxylated methyl ester is diluted with water to form a ready-to-use aqueous pesticide composition, the biologically active ingredient is successfully emulsified into droplets which when applied onto a target substrate, enables the biologically active ingredient to spread across the substrate by the mechanism of surface chemistry.

While a pesticide concentrate may be successfully

formulated using only an ethoxylated methyl ester as a solvent/surfactant, it is oftentimes desirable to combine the methyl ester ethoxylate with a co-surfactant/solvent, in order to provide added solubilizing, emulsifying, dispersing and wetting properties. Examples of suitable co-surfactants/solvents include, for example, other nonionic surfactants such as ethoxylated castor oils, alcohol ethoxylates, alkyl polyglycosides, glucamides and the like, anionic surfactants such as fatty alcohol ether sulfates, phosphate esters, sulfonates, and the like, cationic surfactants such as ethoxylated fatty amines, and the like, alkyl esters such as methyl oleate, ethyl canolate, and methyl soyate, phytobland mineral oils, water-soluble silicone surfactants, fatty dialkyl ethers, fatty dialkyl carbonates, vegetable oils such as canola oil, soybean oil and the like, and mixtures thereof, typically employed in adjuvant and pesticide compositions.

The co-surfactant/solvent of the present invention will typically be present in the composition in an amount of from about 1 to about 99% by weight, preferably from about 10 to about 95% by weight, and most preferably from about 25 to about 90% by weight, based on the weight of the adjuvant.

According to another embodiment of the present invention, there is provided a pesticide concentrate containing a mixture of the above-disclosed adjuvant and a biologically active ingredient.

Suitable biologically-active ingredients for use in

the pesticide concentrates of the present invention are generally selected from the group consisting of insecticides, insect repellents, fungicides, bactericides, bacteriostats, herbicides, and plant growth regulators, all of which are based on biologically-active ingredients. Suitable insecticides include, for example,

5           O,O-diethyl  
              O-(2-isopropyl-4-methyl-6-pyrimidinyl)phosphorothioate,  
              O,O-diethyl S-2-[(ethylthio)ethyl]phosphorodithioate,  
10          O,O-dimethyl O-(3-methyl-4-nitrophenyl)thiophosphate,  
              O,O-dimethyl  
              S-(N-methylcarbamoylmethyl)phosphorodithioate,  
              O,O-dimethyl S-(N-methyl-N-formylcarbamoylmethyl)  
              phosphorodithioate, O,O-dimethyl  
15          S-2-[(ethylthio)ethyl]phosphorodithioate, O,O-diethyl  
              S-2-[(ethylthio)ethyl]phosphorodithioate,  
              O,O-dimethyl-1-hydroxy-2,2,2-trichloroethylphosphonate,  
              O,O-diethyl-O-(5-phenyl-3-isooxazolyl)phosphorothioate,  
              O,O-dimethyl  
20          O-(2,5-dichloro-4-bromophenyl)phosphorothioate,  
              O,O-dimethyl-O-(3-methyl-4-methylmercaptophenyl)  
              thiophosphate, O-ethyl  
              O-p-cyanophenyl-O-phenylphosphorothioate,  
              O,O-dimethyl-S-(1,2-dicarboethoxyethyl)  
25          phosphorodithioate,  
              2-chloro-(2,4,5-trichlorophenyl)vinyldimethyl phosphate,  
              2-chloro-1-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)vinyldimethyl phosphate,  
              O,O-dimethyl O-p-cyanophenyl phosphorothioate,

2,2-dichlorovinyl dimethyl phosphate, O,O-diethyl  
O-2,4-dichlorophenyl phosphorothioate, ethyl  
mercaptophenylacetate O,O-dimethyl phosphorodithioate,  
S-[ (6-chloro-2-oxo-3-benzoxazolinyl)methyl]O,O-diethyl  
5 phosphorodithioate, 2-chloro-1-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)vinyl  
diethylphosphate O,O-diethyl  
O-(3-oxo-2-phenyl-2H-pyridazine-6-yl)phosphorothioate,  
O,O-dimethyl S-(1-methyl-2-ethylsulfinyl)-ethyl  
phosphorothiolate, O,O-dimethyl S-phthalimidomethyl  
10 phosphorodithioate, O,O-diethyl 2,2,2-trichloroethanol,  
2-(p-tert-butyl-phenoxy)isopropyl-2'-chloroethylsulfite,  
azoxybenzene, di-(p-chlorophenyl)-cyclopropyl carbinol,  
di[tri(2,2-dimethyl-2-phenylethyl)tin]oxide,  
1-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(2,6-difluorobenzoyl)urea and  
15 S-tricyclohexyltin O,O-diisopropylphosphorodithioate; 2-  
methyl-2-(methylthio)propionaldehyde O-  
(methylcarbamoyl)oxime; ethyl [2-(4-phenoxyphenoxy)ethyl]  
carbamate;  
butyl-2,3-dihydro-2,2-dimethylbenzofuran-7-yl N,N'-  
20 dimethyl-N,N'-thiodicarbamate; 1-naphthyl methyl  
carbamate; 2-(ethylthiomethyl)phenyl methylcarbamate; 5-  
(4-phenoxybutyl)dimethylthiocarbamate;  
dimethyl N,N'-(thiobis(methylimino)carbonyloxy)-  
bis(ethanimidothioate); (RS)- $\alpha$ -cyano-3-phenoxybenzyl-  
25 (RS)-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-methylbutyrate; (RS)- $\alpha$ -cyano-3-  
phenoxyphenyl-(RS)-2,2-dichloro-1-(4-  
ethoxyphenyl)cyclopropanecarboxylate; (RS)- $\alpha$ -cyano-3-  
phenoxybenzyl-N-(2-chloro- $\alpha$ , $\alpha$ , $\alpha$ -trifluoro-p-tolyl-D-

valinate;

3-phenoxybenzyl-(1RS)-cis,trans-3-(2,2-dichlorovinyl)-  
2,2-dimethylcyclopropanedicarboxylate.

Insect repellents which may be employed include but  
5 are not limited to 2-ethyl-1,3-hexanediol; N-octyl  
bicycloheptene dicarboximide; N,N-diethyl-M-toluamide;  
2,3:4,5-Bis (2-butylene) tetrahydro-2-furaldehyde;  
Di-n-propyl isocinchomeronate; and 2-hydroxyethyl-n-octyl  
sulfide.

Fungicides which may be employed include but are  
not limited to 3,3'-ethylenebis  
(tetrahydro-4,6-dimethyl-2H-1,3,5-thiadiazine-2-thione),  
zinc or manganese ethylenebis(dithiocarbamate),  
bis-(dimethyldithiocarbamoyl)disulfide, zinc propylenebis  
15 (dithiocarbamate), bis(dimethyldithiocarbamoyl)  
ethylenediamine; nickel dimethyldithiocarbamate,  
methyl-1(butylcarbamoyl)-2-benzimidazolecarbamate,  
1,2-bis(3-methoxycarbonyl-2-thioureido)benzene,  
1-isopropylcarbamoyl-3-(3,5-dichlorophenyl)hydantoin,  
20 potassium N-hydroxymethyl-N-methyldithiocarbamate and  
5-methyl-10-butoxycarbonylamino-10, 11-dehydrodibenzo  
(b,f)azepine; pyridine fungicides such as zinc  
bis(1-hydroxy-2(1H)pyridinethionate and  
2-pyridinethiol-1-oxide sodium salt; O,O-diisopropyl  
25 S-benzylphosphorothioate and O-ethyl  
S,S-diphenyldithiophosphate; phthalimide fungicides such  
as N-(2,6-p-diethylphenyl)phthalimide and  
N-(2,6-diethylphenyl)-4-methylphthalimide; dicarboxyimide

fungicides such as N-trichloromethylthio  
4-cyclohexene-1,2-dicarboxyimide and  
N-tetrachloroethylthio-4-cyclohexene-1,2-dicarboxyimide;  
5,6-dihydro-2-methyl-1,4-oxathine-3-carboxanilido-4,4-  
5 dioxide and 5,6-dihydro-2-methyl-1,  
4-oxathine-3-carboxanilide; naphthoquinone fungicides  
such as 2,3-dichloro-1,4-naphthoquinone,  
2-oxy-3-chloro-1,4-naphthoquinone  
copper sulfate, pentachloronitrobenzene;  
10 1,4-dichloro-2,5-dimethoxybenzene;  
5-methyl-s-triazol-(3,4-b)benzthiazole;  
2-(thiocyanomethylthio)benzothiazole;  
3-hydroxy-5-methylisooxazole;  
N-2,3-dichlorophenyltetrachlorophthalamic acid;  
15 5-ethoxy-3-trichloromethyl-1,2,4-thiaziazole;  
2,4-dichloro-6-(0-chloroanilino)-1,3,5-triazine;  
2,3-dicyano-1,4-dithioanthraquinone; copper  
8-quinolinate; polyoxine; validamycin; cycloheximide;  
iron methanearsonate; diisopropyl  
20 1,3-dithiolane-2-iridene malonate;  
3-allyloxy-1,2-benzoisothiazol-1,1-dioxide;  
kasugamycin; Blasticidin S; 4,5,6,7-tetrachlorophthalide;  
3-(3,5-dichlorophenyl)5-ethenyl  
5-methyloxazolizine-2,4-dione;  
25 N-(3,5-dichlorophenyl)-1,2-dimethylcyclopropane-1,2-  
dicarboxyimide; S-n-butyl-5'-para-t-butylbenzyl-N-3-  
pyridylthiocarbonylimidate;  
4-chlorophenoxy-3,3-dimethyl-1-(1H,1,3,4-triazol-1-yl)-2-

butanone;

methyl-D,L-N-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)-N-(2'-methoxyacetyl)alaninate;

N-propyl-N-[2-(2,4,6-trichlorophenoxy)ethyl]imidazol-1-carboxamide; N-(3,5-dichlorophenyl)succinamide;

tetrachloroisophthalonitrile;

2-dimethylamino-4-methyl-5-n-butyl-6-hydroxypyrimidine;

2,6-dichloro-4-nitroaniline;

3-methyl-4-chlorobenzthiazol-2-one;

10 1,2,5,6-tetrahydro-4H-pyrrolol-[3,2,1-i,j]quinoline-2-one;

3'-isopropoxy-2-methylbenzanilide;

1-[2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-4-ethyl-1,3-dioxorane-2-ylmethyl]-1H,1,2,4-triazol;

15 1,2-benzisothiazoline-3-one; basic copper chloride; basic copper sulfate;

N'-dichlorofluoromethylthio-N,N-dimethyl-N-phenyl sulfamide; ethyl-N-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)thiocarbamate hydrochloride; piomycin;

20 S,S-6-methylquinoxaline-2,3-di-yldithiocarbonate; complex of zinc and manneb; di-zinc bis(dimethyldithiocarbamate)ethylenebis(dithiocarbamate).

Plant growth regulators which may be employed

25 include but are not limited to

N-methoxycaronyl-N'-4-methylphenylcarbamoylethylisourea and 1-(4-chlorophenylcarbamoyl)-3-ethoxycarbonyl-2-methylisourea; another type of plant growth regulators

such as sodium naphthaleneacetate,  
1,2-dihydropyridazine-3,6-dione and gibberellins;  
triazine herbicides such as  
2-methylthio-4,6-bisethylamino-1,3,5-triazine,  
5 2-chloro-4,6-bisethylamino-1,3,5-triazine,  
2-methoxy-4-ethylamino-6-isopropylamino-1,3,5-triazine,  
2-chloro-4-ethylamino-6-isopropylamino-s-triazine,  
2-methylthio-4,6-bis(isopropylamino)-s-triazine and  
2-methylthio-4-ethylamino-6-isopropylamino-s-triazine;  
10 phenoxy herbicides such as 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid  
and methyl, ethyl, and butyl esters thereof.  
2-chloro-4-methylphenoxyacetic acid,  
4-chloro-2-methylphenoxyacetic acid and  
ethyl 2-methyl-4-chlorophenoxybutylate; diphenylether  
15 herbicides such as  
2,4,6-trichlorophenyl-4'-nitrophenylether, 2,4-  
dichlorophenyl-4'-nitrophenylether and  
3,5-dimethylphenyl-4'-nitrophenylether; urea herbicides  
such as 3-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-1-methoxy-1-methyl urea,  
20 3-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-1,1-dimethylurea and  
3-(4-chlorophenyl)-1,1-dimethyl urea; carbamate  
herbicides such as  
3-methoxycarbonylaminophenyl-N-(3-methylphenyl)carbamate,  
isopropyl-N-(3-chlorophenyl)carbamate and  
25 methyl-N-(3,4'-dichlorophenyl)carbamate; uracil  
herbicides such as 5-bromo-3-sec-butyl-6-methyluracil and  
1-cyclohexyl-3,5-propyleneuracil; thiolcarbamate  
herbicides such as

S-(4-chlorobenzyl)-N,N-diethylthiolcarbamate, S-ethyl-N-cyclohexyl-N-ethylthiolcarbamate and S-ethyl-hexahydro-1H-azepine-1-carbothioate and S-ethyl-N,N-di-n-propyl-thiocarbamate; pyridinium herbicides such as 1,1'-di-methyl-4,4'-bispyridinium dichloride; phosphoric herbicides such as N-(phosphonomethyl)glycine; aniline herbicides such as alpha, alpha, alpha-trifluoro-2,6-dinitro-N,N-dipropyl-p-toluidine, 4-(methylsulfonyl)-2,6-dinitro-N,N-dipropylaniline and N[3], N[3]-diethyl-2,4-dinitro-6 trifluoromethyl-1,3-phenylene diamine; acid anilide herbicides such as 2-chloro-2',6'-diethyl-N-(butoxymethyl)acetanilide, 2-chloro-2',6'-diethyl-N-(methoxymethyl)acetanilide, and 3,4-dichloropropionanilide; pyrazole herbicides such as 1,3-dimethyl-4-(2,4-dichlorobenzoyl)-5-hydroxypyrazole and 1,3-di-methyl-4-(2,4-dichlorobenzoyl)-5-(p-toluenesulfonyloxy)pyrazole; 5-tert-butyl-3-(2,4-dichloro-5-isopropoxyphenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazoline-2-one; 2-[N-isopropyl,N-(4-chlorophenyl)carbamoyl]-4-chloro-5-methyl-4-isooxazoline-3-one; 3-isopropylbenzo-2-thia-1,3-diazinone-(4)-2,4-dioxide and 3-(2-methyl-phenoxy)pyridazine.

The biologically-active ingredients of the present invention can be present in the concentrate in an amount of

from about 0.1 to about 95% by weight, and preferably from about 5 to about 85% by weight, and most preferably from about 10 to about 80% by weight, based on the weight of the concentrate.

5 According to another embodiment of the present invention, there is thus provided a pesticide concentrate containing: (a) from about 99.9 to about 5% by weight, preferably from about 95 to about 15% by weight, and most preferably from about 90 to about 20% by weight, of a the  
10 above-disclosed adjuvant; and (b) from about 0.1 to about 95% by weight, preferably from about 5 to about 85% by weight, and most preferably from about 10 to about 80% by weight, of a biologically active ingredient.

The precise amount of biologically active ingredient  
15 contained in the pesticide concentrate will oftentimes depend upon the specific end-use application, i.e., the target substrate to be treated, the area to be treated, etc. Thus, it is within the skill of the applicator to determine the specific amount of biologically active  
20 ingredient to be used for a particular application.

According to another embodiment of the present invention, there is also provided an aqueous pesticide composition containing from about 0.1% to about 10% by weight, and preferably from about 0.5 to about 5% by  
25 weight, based on the weight of the composition, of the above-disclosed pesticide concentrate.

The precise amount of dilution of the pesticide concentrate necessary to form a ready-to-use aqueous

pesticide composition will again depend upon the specific application itself, i.e., the target substrate to be treated, the area to be treated, etc. Thus, it is once again within the skill of the applicator to determine the 5 specific amount of water needed to dilute the pesticide concentrate.

Finally, the present invention also provides a process for treating a target substrate involving contacting the target substrate with the above-disclosed aqueous pesticide 10 composition.

The present invention will be better understood from the examples which follow, all of which are meant to be illustrative only, and are not intended to unduly limit the scope of the invention in any way.

## 15

## EXAMPLES

## Examples of Adjuvant Formulations:

Example 1

	<u>Component</u>	<u>%/wt.</u>
	C <sub>18</sub> methyl ester w/13 EO units	10%
20	methyl oleate	89%
	water	1%

Example 2

	<u>Component</u>	<u>%/wt.</u>
	C <sub>18</sub> methyl ester w/13 EO units	8%
	methyl soyate	88%
5	AGRIMUL® PG 2065(*)	4%

(\*) AGRIMUL® PG 2065 Surfactant - an alkyl polyglycoside in which the alkyl group contains 8 to 10 carbon atoms and has an average degree of polymerization of 1.7.

Example 3

	<u>Component</u>	<u>%/wt.</u>
10	C <sub>6-10</sub> methyl ester w/3 EO units	6%
	mineral oil	92%
	POE (4) lauryl alcohol	2%

## Examples of Pesticide Concentrates:

15      Example 1:

	<u>Component</u>	<u>%/wt.</u>
	C <sub>18</sub> methyl ester w/13 EO units	13%
	methyl laurate	42.5%
	Chloropyrifos	42.5%
20	calcium dodecylbenzene sulfonate	2%

Example 2:

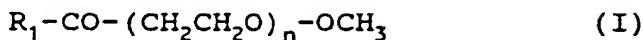
<u>Component</u>	<u>%/wt.</u>
C <sub>18</sub> methyl ester w/13 EO units	4%
methyl canolate	82%
5 AGRIMUL® PG 2065	2%
calcium dodecylbenzene sulfonate	2%
2,4 D octyl ester	10%

What is claimed is:

1. An adjuvant comprising:

(a) an ethoxylated fatty acid methyl ester corresponding to formula I:

5



wherein  $R_1$  is a saturated or unsaturated alkyl group containing from about 6 to about 22 carbon atoms, n is an integer from 1 to about 200; and

10 (b) a component selected from the group consisting of nonionic surfactants, anionic surfactants, cationic surfactants, alkyl esters, phytobland mineral oils, water soluble silicone surfactants, fatty acid dialkyl ethers, fatty acid dialkyl carbonates, vegetable oils, and mixtures thereof.

15 2. The adjuvant of claim 1 wherein the fatty acid methyl ester ethoxylate is present in an amount of from about 1 to about 99% by weight, based on the weight of the adjuvant.

3. The adjuvant of claim 1 wherein the component is present in an amount of from about 1 to about 99% by weight, based on the weight of the adjuvant.

20 4. The adjuvant of claim 1 wherein the component is an alkyl ester.

5. The adjuvant of claim 1 wherein the component is a fatty acid dialkyl ether.

25 6. The adjuvant of claim 1 wherein the component is a fatty acid dialkyl carbonate.

7. The adjuvant of claim 1 wherein the component is a vegetable oil.

8. The adjuvant of claim 1 wherein the component is a phytobland mineral oil.

9. The adjuvant of claim 1 wherein the component is a nonionic surfactant.

5 10. The adjuvant of claim 9 wherein the nonionic surfactant is an alkyl polyglycoside.

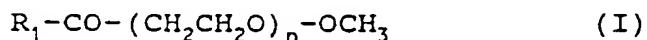
11. The adjuvant of claim 1 wherein the component is an anionic surfactant.

12. The adjuvant of claim 1 wherein the component is a 10 cationic surfactant.

13. The adjuvant of claim 1 wherein the component is a water soluble silicone surfactant.

14. An adjuvant comprising:

15 (a) from about 10 to about 75% by weight of an ethoxylated fatty acid methyl ester corresponding to formula I:



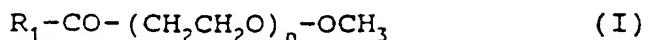
wherein R<sub>1</sub> is a saturated or unsaturated alkyl group containing from about 12 to about 18 carbon atoms, n is an 20 integer of from about 5 to about 30; and

(b) from about 90 to about 25% by weight of a nonionic co-surfactant, all weights being based on the weight of the adjuvant.

15. A pesticide concentrate comprising:

25 (a) an adjuvant containing:

(i) an ethoxylated fatty acid methyl ester corresponding to formula I:



wherein R<sub>1</sub> is a saturated or unsaturated alkyl group containing from about 6 to about 22 carbon atoms, n is an integer from 1 to about 200; and

(ii) a component selected from the group  
5 consisting of nonionic surfactants, anionic surfactants, cationic surfactants, alkyl esters, phytobland mineral oils, water soluble silicone surfactants, fatty acid dialkyl ethers, fatty acid dialkyl carbonates, vegetable oils, and mixtures thereof; and

10 (b) a biologically active ingredient.

16. The concentrate of claim 15 wherein the fatty acid methyl ester ethoxylate is present in an amount of from about 1 to about 99% by weight, based on the weight of the adjuvant.

15 17. The concentrate of claim 15 wherein the component is present in an amount of from about 1 to about 99% by weight, based on the weight of the adjuvant.

18. The concentrate of claim 15 wherein the component is an alkyl ester.

20 19. The concentrate of claim 15 wherein the component is a fatty acid dialkyl ether.

20. The concentrate of claim 15 wherein the component is a fatty acid dialkyl carbonate.

25 21. The concentrate of claim 15 wherein the component is a vegetable oil.

22. The concentrate of claim 15 wherein the component is a phytobland mineral oil.

23. The concentrate of claim 15 wherein the component is

a nonionic surfactant.

24. The concentrate of claim 23 wherein the nonionic surfactant is an alkyl polyglycoside.

25. The concentrate of claim 15 wherein the component is  
5 an anionic surfactant.

26. The concentrate of claim 15 wherein the component is a cationic surfactant.

27. The concentrate of claim 15 wherein the component is a water soluble silicone surfactant.

10 28. The concentrate of claim 15 wherein the biologically active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of insecticides, insect repellents, fungicides, bactericides, bacteriostats, herbicides, plant growth regulators, and mixtures thereof.

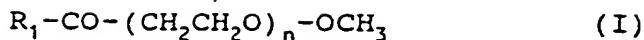
15 29. The concentrate of claim 15 wherein the biologically active ingredient is present in an amount of from about 0.1 to about 95% by weight, based on the weight of the concentrate.

20 30. The concentrate of claim 15 wherein the biologically active ingredient is present in an amount of from about 5 to about 85% by weight, based on the weight of the concentrate.

31. A pesticide concentrate comprising:

(a) from about 90 to about 20% by weight of an  
25 adjuvant, the adjuvant containing:

(i) from about 10 to about 75% by weight of an ethoxylated fatty acid methyl ester corresponding to formula I:



wherein  $R_1$  is a saturated or unsaturated alkyl group containing from about 10 to about 18 carbon atoms,  $n$  is an integer from about 5 to about 30; and

5 (ii) from about 90 to about 25% by weight of a nonionic co-surfactant, the weights of (i) and (ii) being based on the weight of the adjuvant; and

10 (b) from about 10 to about 80% by weight of a biologically active ingredient, the weights of (a) and (b) being based on the weight of the concentrate.

32. An aqueous pesticide composition comprising:

(a) from about 0.1 to about 10% by weight of the pesticide concentrate of claim 16.

15 33. A process for treating a target substrate comprising contacting the substrate with the aqueous pesticide composition of claim 32.

34. The process of claim 33 wherein the target substrate is selected from the group consisting of a plant, a plant pest, and a combination of a plant and a plant pest.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US98/14185

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) :AO1N 25/00  
US CL :424/405

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 424/405

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 9622109 A1 (THOUVE) 25 JULY 1996 (25.07.96) SEE ENTIRE DOCUMENT.	1-5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14-19, 21, 23, AND 25-34
Y		----- 1-31
Y	US 5,559,078 A (GARST) 24 SEPTEMBER 1996 (24.09.96) SEE ENTIRE DOCUMENT.	1-31
Y	US 4,869,896 A (COULSTON ET AL) 26 SEPTEMBER 1989 (26.09.89) SEE ENTIRE DOCUMENT.	1-31
Y, P	US 5,711,953 A (BASSETT ) 27 JANUARY 1998 (27.01.98) SEE ENTIRE DOCUMENT.	1-31

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.  See patent family annex.

Special categories of cited documents:	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
*A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
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*L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&"	document member of the same patent family
*O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
*P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search

20 AUGUST 1998

Date of mailing of the international search report

16 November 1998

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